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well-understood meaning," to find more of this atmosphere than one does. True, many bits of personal experience and glimpses of the real life of the frontier are brought in, and they all add color and human interest to the tale. Yet they but whet one's appetite for more, and one feels as if the author had unduly restrained himself in presenting this phase of frontier history. If chapters on the economic and social life of the region could have been substituted for the rather dry and detailed account of engineering surveys or some minutiae of the Indian campaigns, the desired atmosphere would have been more real. The life of the frontier is one of the most picturesque, most interesting, and most stimulating features in American history. It is a life of which the generation rising in the midst of the present-day advanced industrial organization can have slight conception. The story of the dangers, the suffering, the industry, the perseverance, the courage of those who chose to cast their lot with the vanguard on the frontier in the struggle to subdue a continent is one which should appeal with tremendous force to every American. It is a story which cannot be told too vividly, a tale where the human element cannot be made too prominent.

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*The Expansion of New England.* By LOIS KIMBALL MATHEWS. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. 8vo, pp. xiv+303. \$2.50 net.

It is not often that a group of people from one small section of a country are destined to exercise such a potent influence over other sections as have those who emigrated from New England. The latent social force which the stock from this small corner of the country proved could be exercised over wide areas and through many generations is the most significant feature of this study.

From the period of the first establishment of the New England colonies until about 1660 they were mainly occupied in making their foothold secure, and, except for the settlements along the Connecticut River, had not ventured far from the coast. From 1660 to 1713 the history of the frontier was largely determined by the frequent Indian wars, and little advance was made. By that time, however, the settlers on the frontier had become differentiated from those on the coast, where prosperity had made a leisure class and culture possible. The period of comparative peace between 1713 and 1745 witnessed the first speculation in land, and an expansion such that at its close virtually all of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut had been granted for settlement; many were settling in northern New England, and some moving to New Jersey and New York. The outbreak of war checked the movement for a few years, but it was soon resumed, the tide in the period just preceding the Revolution setting toward northern New England, New York, and northeastern Pennsylvania. The Revolution resulted in a temporary setback; but the war was scarcely over before the movement was again under way, first turning toward northern New England, so that by 1812 New Hampshire and Vermont were fairly settled; but later, and in greater volume, turning to central New York, northern Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The War of 1812 and the later Indian treaties

opened the lands in the Northwest to settlement; while the construction of the Erie Canal and the introduction of steamboats on the lakes made the region accessible to the New England emigrants. They began pouring into it in the years 1830-37. By 1840 Ohio was fairly settled; the main current of migration thereafter turning to north Illinois and Indiana, and, still later, to Michigan and Wisconsin. The result of this expansion of New England up to 1860, as portrayed by the map indicating the area settled by New Englanders, shows an almost solid belt extending between the 41st and the 44th parallels of north latitude from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi River.

The author's attention is primarily given to the spread of the New England people; but considerable space is also devoted to the spread of New England institutions. The way in which the three typical institutions of that section, the Congregational church, the school or college, and the town meeting, were carried with these people wherever they migrated is one of the most interesting phases of the study. The town meeting appears to have been more modified in the contact with the new environment than the other institutions, but all proved potent forces in the social life wherever the virile stock of New England was to be found.

The volume is the result of most detailed and painstaking study, based in the main on local histories and biographies—sources which are hardly ideal, but the best available under the circumstances. The Bibliographical Notes discussing this material should prove very serviceable. The numerous and well-executed maps, which really embody so large a portion of the results, are one of the most valuable features of the book.

C. W. W.

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*The Family and the Nation.* A Study in Natural Inheritance and Social Responsibility. By WILLIAM C. D. WHETHAM AND CATHERINE D. WHETHAM. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909. Large 8vo, pp. viii+233. \$2.50 net.

This volume is chiefly interesting as another sign of the spreading interest in eugenics. "To the writers," as the preface states, "the train of ideas outlined therein has given unity to a host of previously unconnected observations." Some of these unconnected observations, it would appear, find a place in the body of the book. The authors have skimmed and paraphrased well-known writers on heredity and variation, and have added slight material of their own gathering on the rise and decline of families. The result is dilute and unorganized. Surprisingly little originality is shown for the most part. The chapter on causes of the decline in the birth-rate is the principal exception, and is not without interest, though it can hardly be called important. On the whole the book is too superficial to be of any considerable scientific value.